

ROC, ACCA, SRP Unveil New Community Service Program: Project Cool Aid

Governor Janet Napolitano today joined the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC), the Arizona Chapter of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) and Salt River Project (SRP) in launching a community service program aimed at helping Maricopa County homeowners who do not have properly functioning cooling systems.

“This project will be a great benefit to families in Maricopa County who can't afford to repair their air conditioning or other cooling systems,” said Napolitano. “This will help families with children, the elderly and others who may be sensitive to heat-related illnesses. I commend the Cool Aid partners for their efforts.”

“Many families just do not have the means to secure properly functioning cooling systems in their own homes, and we know it can pose a health hazard for some individuals during Arizona’s hot summer months,” says Israel G. Torres, ROC director. “With the commitment of our Project Cool Aid partners, this is one way we can create a safer environment for families and give back to our community.”

Maricopa County homeowners can apply for Project Cool Aid by submitting a statement of need by Aug. 31 with the following information:

- Homeowner’s name, address and telephone number
- Description of cooling system needs
- Number and description of family members
- Special circumstances which may include health and disability issues and financial concerns

The ROC, ACCA-Arizona Chapter and SRP have teamed up with local community-serving agencies to offer Project Cool Aid, including the Foundation for Senior Living, Mesa Community Action Network and the city of Phoenix Human Services department. In addition to receiving statements of need from the public, Project Cool Aid also is receiving referrals from these agencies in an attempt to address some critical needs.

“When the Arizona Registrar of Contractors first approached our organization about assisting families in need, we knew instantly that we wanted to be a part of this project,” says ACCA Executive Director Karen Nordstrand. “Our contractors know the desert heat can be a real hardship for some families, and Project Cool Aid gives us another opportunity to help those in our community.”

“SRP is not only committed to delivering reliable power, but we are also committed to the communities we serve,” said Rusty Foley, Corporate Affairs Manager. “Project Cool Aid is an important community partnership that compliments the various programs SRP has in place to assist customers in need.”

A selection committee comprised of the Project Cool Aid representatives will review the statements and will select from households that follow the guidelines and meet all the requirements. Prior to performing work, the identified homes will be inspected to determine the scope of the cooling system project. Project Cool Aid partners will supply all parts and labor for the repairs.

To apply for Project Cool Aid, the following requirements must be met.

- Applicants must own and occupy a single-family residence in Maricopa County. Condominiums, apartments or other rental properties are not eligible for the program.
- Applicants must completely state their need and special circumstances and submit a written document to the ROC by mail or E-mail.
- Contractors must have a safe environment to perform the repairs, which will be determined at the inspection conducted by contractors or ROC staff.
- Participants will be asked to sign a release authorizing the work and agreeing to share their story.

To submit a statement of need for the project, send the letter via mail to Arizona Registrar of Contractors, Attention: Project Cool Aid, 800 W. Washington, 6th Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85007 or submit the letter via E-mail to projectcoolaid@azroc.gov

The Arizona Registrar of Contractors regulates construction contractors in the state by providing a licensing and regulatory system for residential and commercial contractors designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Additionally, the ROC offers financial protection to residential consumers who use licensed contractors through its Residential Contractors' Recovery Fund. Established in 1931, the ROC has a staff of more than 140 employees and operates 11 offices statewide. For more information about the agency, call 602-542-1525 or toll-free outside Maricopa County at 888-271-9286 or visit www.azroc.gov.

The Air Conditioning Contractors of America/Arizona (ACCA-AZ) is a non-profit trade association of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration contractors. ACCA-AZ is the only state association exclusive to the air conditioning and sheet metal industry. Incorporated in 1953, the association has more than 180 members statewide. For more information about the association, contact the organization at www.acca-az.org.

SRP is the largest provider of electricity in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area, serving about 800,000 customers.